



**U.S. Department of Justice**

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**EVENT: Sentencing**

**DEFENDANT: Shane Duvall Bradford, 24**

**Belleville Man Sentenced to Ten Years for Gun and Drug Violations.**

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On March 10, 2005, Shane Duvall Bradford, age twenty-four, of Belleville, Michigan, was sentenced to 120 months in prison, and four years of supervised release, for possessing, with the intent to distribute crack and powder cocaine, and for possessing a firearm in furtherance of those drug trafficking crimes. The sentence was imposed by United States District Judge Denise Page Hood. Bradford pled guilty to the drug and firearm violations before Judge Hood on September 9, 2004.

Bradford's conviction resulted from a routine traffic stop made by deputies of the Washtenaw County Sheriff's Department. The deputies stopped Bradford's car in Ypsilanti Township for playing loud music in violation of a local ordinance. During a search of Bradford's car, a deputy noticed a tear in the back rest of the passenger seat and, upon closer examination, the deputy found a .40 caliber, Ruger, semi-automatic handgun, over nine grams of crack cocaine and over seventy-three grams of powder cocaine. The narcotics were

packaged for sale. The deputy also recovered \$4,755, in cash from the back rest. At the time of his arrest, Bradford told the deputies that he intended to sell the drugs and that the handgun belonged to him. It was later determined that Bradford had a previous felony conviction and was prohibited from possessing a firearm.

In announcing Bradford's sentence, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy commended the investigative work of the Washtenaw County Sheriff's Department, the Special Agents of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), and Assistant United States Attorney Michael J. Riordan, who handled the prosecution.

"Combating drug trafficking and gun violence is one of the top priorities of the Department of Justice, and this prosecution underscores our commitment to take those who deal drugs and illegally possess guns off of the streets for a long time," said United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy. "The United States Attorney's Office will continue to work with local law enforcement agencies, such as the Washtenaw County Sheriff's Department, to make our neighborhoods safer," added Murphy. ATF Special Agent-In-Charge Valerie Goddard stated that "this significant sentence should send a message that the combination of drugs and guns are a lethal mix. There are specific Federal laws that impose mandatory sentencing provisions for those who choose to possess and use guns to protect themselves and their proceeds while selling drugs."